GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5723
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
HARMFUL EFFECT OF SYNTHETIC DRUG
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growing number of synthetic drug users is a mater of grave concern as their increased use is reflected in their seizure rates;

(b) if so, whether the synthetic drugs are more harmful than traditional ones;

(c) whether according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), an Amphetamine-type Stimulation (ATS) is the largest marcotics problem faced by most nations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Narcotics Control Bureau has extended its co-operation to face the day-today problems keeping;

(f) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Consumption pattern of certain synthetic compounds indicate increasing number of drug abusers.

(b) Yes, Sir. Most of the synthetic drugs are more addictive than naturally occurring/plant products having addictive properties.

(c) & (d) As per the report of UNODC , abuse of Cocaine , a synthetic drug is the major drug abuse in Many Nations. However, in South-East-Asia and South Asia recent reports suggest increasing abuse of Amphetetamine-type Stimulation (ATS) like compounds

(e) & (f) steps taken by Narcotics Control Bureau to check, detect and prevent illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances are:

Strict surveillance and enforcement at import and export points, land boarders, airports, foreign post offices etc.

Intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes.

Improved coordination between the various drug law enforcement agencies in order to impart greater cohesion to interdiction.

Strengthening of international liaison to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of operational intelligence.

Increased international co-operation for exchange of information and investigative assistance in administering control over the movement of precursor chemicals.

Building of an electronic data base of offenders.

Conducting training programme for law enforcement officials for upgrading their skills to combat drug trafficking.

Implementing a scheme of monetary rewards for information leading to seizures of Narcotics drugs to informants and officers.

Financial assistance being provided to eligible States for strengthening their narcotic units.

Steps taken by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to reduce the problem of drug abuse in the society includes awareness creation and education programme on ill effects of drug/alcohol abuse, motivation, counseling, treatment, follow-up and social reintegration of cured addicts, capacity building through imparting rehabilitation training and counseling in the area of drug abuse/alcohol prevention to volunteers and staff and effective networking and linkages with the service providers involved in prevention of alcohol abuse with the objective of reducing incidence of drug abuse in the society. Ministry of Health also provides schemes for Drug De-addiction Programmes through various Zonal Institutions.